

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 15376 242017Z

12

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 241533Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6042

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 15376

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR
SUBJECT: NOTES ON BREZHNEV'S PHYSICAL CONDITION

REF: MOSCOW 14979

1. AT QUADRIPARTITE MEETING OCTOBER 23, FRENCH AMBASSADOR VIMONT SAID THAT BREZHNEV WAS, IN FACT, ILL ON OCTOBER 15 AND HAD A DEFINITE PROBLEM IN SPEAKING DURING THAT FIRST DAY AND EVENING OF THE GISCARD D'ESTAING VISIT TO MOSCOW (REFTEL). HOWEVER, BY OCTOBER 17 HE HAD MADE QUICK RECOVERY AND VIMONT WAS QUITE IMPRESSED BY HIS ANIMATION AND VIGOR. BREZHNEV WAS ALSO IN GOOD FORM ON THE FOLLOWING DAY DURING THE AIRPORT DEPARTURE CEREMONIES.

2. VIMONT OBSERVED THAT BREZHNEV APPEARS TO HAVE UPS AND DOWNS IN FAIRLY QUICK SUCCESSION AND SPECULATED THAT THIS MAY BE BECAUSE OF LIMITED RESERGES OF STAMINA. VIMONT ALSO COMMENTED THAT BREZHNEV APPEARS TO APPROACH WITH SOME DIFFICULTIES THE CHORE OF PUBLIC SPEAKING. HE CONFIRMED (REFTEL) THAT BREZHNEV WAS NOT VERY WELL-PREPARED DURING HIS TALKS WITH GISCARD.

3. BREZHNEV ALSO LOOKED GOOD DURING TV COVERAGE OF HIS OCTOBER 22 TALKS WITH HUNGARIAN PM LAZAR.

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